



The seventh national security cutter, Kimball, was successfully launched in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Dec. 17, 2016. U.S. Coast Guard photo.

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### **Acquisition Update: Seventh National Security Cutter Launched**

Dec. 19, 2016

The seventh national security cutter (NSC), Kimball, was launched at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Dec. 17.

The seventh NSC's christening will take place in March 2017, with delivery scheduled for 2018. Kimball will be the first NSC stationed in Honolulu.

The cutter is named after Sumner Kimball, who was appointed chief of the Treasury Department's Revenue Marine Division in 1871. Kimball established a training school for young officers, which would later develop into the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and reformed the Revenue Cutter Service. After organizing the nation's network of volunteer lifesaving stations into the U.S. Life-Saving Service, he served as general superintendent until it merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to become the modern Coast Guard in 1915.

The 418-foot cutters are endowed with advanced command, control, communication, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment; aviation support facilities; stern cutter boat launch; and long-endurance station keeping. The NSC is designed to patrol the open-ocean and serves as an operational-level headquarters for complex law enforcement, defense and national security missions. The NSCs also feature enhanced seakeeping, habitability and endurance to serve in the most demanding maritime environments. They are replacing the 378-foot high endurance cutters, which have been in service since the 1960s.

Five NSCs are in service, with three in Alameda, California, and two in Charleston, South Carolina. The sixth NSC, Munro, will also be based in Alameda and was delivered this month. The eighth NSC, Midgett, will be stationed in Honolulu and is scheduled for delivery in 2019.